

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the	)	
	)	
Suspension of the Educator	)	<b>ORDER OF SUSPENSION</b>
	)	<b>(BREACH OF CONTRACT)</b>
Certificate of Alison M. Thompson	)	
	)	
Certificate # 213704	)	

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 9, 2004. On March 26, 2004, and April 29, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Alison Thompson a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate (certificate) by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee, and regular mail. Ms. Thompson received the April 29, 2004, letter as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. Ms. Thompson did not request a hearing during the period allowed by law, and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, which was undisputed by Ms. Thompson, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Thompson's certificate for one year.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Thompson holds a valid certificate, and was a first year teacher. She was under contract with the Greenville County School District (District) for the 2003-2004 school year, as a Spanish teacher at J.L. Mann Academy. On January 30, 2004, Ms. Thompson submitted a written resignation to her principal, Mrs. Susan F. Hughes, effective February 13, 2004. In her letter she stated reasons for resigning were that she wanted to take time to evaluate her current goals and to investigate new opportunities. On February 24, 2004, Superintendent Harner wrote Ms. Thompson that her resignation did not meet District policy, and that he would recommend that the District Board seek a one-

year suspension of her certificate. On March 9, 2004, the District Board voted to file a complaint with the State Board requesting the suspension of Ms. Thompson's certificate for one year for breach of contract.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2004). Unprofessional conduct includes breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is conclusive evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Thompson's certificate # 213704 for a period of one year from February 13, 2004 through February 12, 2005, on the ground of unprofessional conduct due to breach of contract. At the end of the suspension period if Ms. Thompson wants her certificate reinstated, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
June 9, 2004